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# HIGH COURT DRAMA

## EXPLOSIVE TESTIMONY ENDS IN PARTISAN BRAWL

### CHRISTINE BLASEY FORD

## '100 percent' certain Kavanaugh assaulted her

AP PHOTOS

### BRETT KAVANAUGH

## Panel hearing is 'a national disgrace'

### FORD'S TESTIMONY

**BY LAURIE KELLMAN**
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** • Indelible.

That's the way Christine Blasey Ford described the details of what she says was a sexual assault by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, on a summer evening three decades ago. Asked for the most vivid memory from that night, she did not name a physical violation. Rather, it was a specific sound she heard from Kavanaugh and the other boy she says was in the room, Mark Judge.

"Laughter — the uproarious laughter between the two," Ford, her voice wavering, told the Senate Judiciary Committee at Thursday's extraordinary hearing. "They were laughing with each other. … I was underneath one of them while the two laughed."

The moment crystallized the national debate over gender, power and whom to believe in the #MeToo era under President Donald Trump. Thursday's hearing in many ways turned on Ford's credibility as a victim of and a witness

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### COMMITTEE WILL VOTE FRIDAY

**BY DAN BALZ**
Washington Post

Whatever anyone intended, Thursday's hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee devolved into the worst of Washington. It was a partisan brawl on steroids that will leave the country more deeply divided than before. It ended as many had feared it would, a she-said, he-said moment that left senators with no easy out on the question of whether to confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.

The Judiciary Committee will vote Friday morning.

Thursday started quietly enough, as Christine Blasey Ford took the witness stand to assert that Kavanaugh had sexually assaulted her 36 years ago when both were teenagers in the Washington suburbs. By the afternoon, after Ford had departed and Kavanaugh had delivered an indignant and sometimes tearful opening statement, it devolved into angry finger-pointing, with Republicans accusing Democrats of character

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### KAVANAUGH'S TESTIMONY

**BY LAURIE KELLMAN**
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** • Brett Kavanaugh started off shouting.

He'd prepared a blistering defense of his character and a scathing rebuke of the "national disgrace" of his Supreme Court confirmation process. But if there's a moment to remember, it may be when Kavanaugh stopped yelling.

The nominee — who could barely mention his parents, wife or children without choking up — spoke of his daughter's evening prayers.

"Little Liza, all of 10 years old," Kavanaugh began, before breaking down. His wife bowed her head. Liza, Kavanaugh continued, told her family to pray for his accuser, Christine Blasey Ford.

"That's a lot of wisdom from a 10-year-old," he said. "We mean no ill will."

Kavanaugh's show of both fury and tears was a cry from the flip side of the #MeToo movement, which one year ago began toppling powerful men from the

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TRUMP SHAKEN, BUT BACKS KAVANAUGH > A4 • #METOO MEETS PARTISAN DYSFUNCTION > A5 • EDITORIAL: VICTIM'S TURN TO SPEAK > A12

## Missouri finds new company to transport people with disabilities

**BY BLYTHE BERNHARD**
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The Missouri Department of Mental Health has reached a deal with LogistiCare to provide job transportation for 600 people with disabilities in the St. Louis region, state officials said Thursday.

The state previously contracted with Bi-State Development and OATS Transit for the free bus service but could not

See DISABILITIES • Page A6

## Boeing wins major $9.2 billion contract for new training jet

**CHRISTIAN GOODEN** • cgooden@post-dispatch.com
**Boeing unveiled its new T-X trainer aircraft in 2017. More than 300 of the jets will be built in north St. Louis County.**

**BY JACOB BARKER**
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

In a generational win for Boeing Co.'s north St. Louis County manufacturing operations, the U.S. Department of Defense on Thursday awarded the company a contract worth up to $9.2 billion to build the Air Force's new training jet.

The contract, which is expected to extend until 2034, should secure the future of Boeing's St. Louis operations and the 14,000 regional jobs they

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'Coffin Challenge' draws 28,000-plus souls • A3

Man killed in freak crash at restaurant drive-thru • A7

Regulators seek to bar Tesla's Musk as officer • B1

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